

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/648,988  
Attorney Docket: 46107-0083  
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2005

#### REMARKS

In an Office Action dated March 17, 2005, the Examiner indicates that Claims 7, 9-11, and 17-24 (Group I) and Claims 12-16 (Group II) are distinct from each other and require restriction to one of the inventions. The Examiner explains that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as a combination and subcombination. The inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (i) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (ii) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. In the instance case, the Examiner states that the combination as claimed (Group II) does not require the particulars of the subcombination (Group I) as claimed because Claim 7 recites at least one limitation, e.g., "a base opposite an insertion opening" which is not required by the combination.

By this response, Applicants amend Claim 12 to include the particulars of the subcombination of Claim 7. More particularly, amended Claim 12 now includes a base opposite an insertion opening and wherein the insertion opening and the open sides are each located on an insertion side.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction as to Claims 12-16 in Group II. Applicants also respectfully submit that the Examiner has already searched and examined the present invention in Class 475, Subclass 230, and therefore no extra work would be required by not restricting the present invention. In the event the Examiner maintains that Claims 7, 9-11, and 17-24 define an invention distinct from those of Claims 12-16, Applicants hereby elect Claims 7, 9-11, and 17-24 in Group I and authorize the withdrawal of Claims 12-16 of Group II with the understanding that Applicants may pursue the withdrawn claims in a subsequent continuation or divisional application.


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Favorable consideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

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